

America: Safer and More Secure

Separating Fact from the Fiction

Myth: *America has failed to install radiation detection monitors at ports of entry.*

Fact: *DHS is in the process of deploying radiation detection monitors at every port of entry to the United States.*

- ★ In fact, approximately, 290 U.S. ports of entry already have equipment installed and operational, with 121 additional ports to be equipped by the end of 2004. Installation is moving forward as quickly as possible. Additionally, DHS has issued thousands of portable radiation detectors to border control personnel.
- ★ The FY2005 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, just signed into law by President Bush, provides \$50 million for radiation detection equipment and another \$30 million that can be used for either radiation detection equipment or other non-intrusive inspection equipment.
- ★ In addition to radiation portal monitors, other key measures are already in place to target high-risk containers, including:
 - the review of advance manifests; and,
 - the Container Security Initiative, which screens containers before they leave the foreign port.

Myth: *America fails to screen 100 percent of the cargo that travels on passenger planes.*

Fact: *DHS has made tremendous progress to better secure cargo on passenger planes.*

- ★ Immediately after 9/11, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) worked to better secure air cargo shipped via passenger planes. Today, through the Known Shipper Program, TSA is in charge of screening all cargo loaded onto passenger aircraft.
- ★ DHS also has mandated that foreign cargo carriers adhere to the same cargo security procedures as domestic carriers.
- ★ To develop next-generation screening technologies, DHS has committed millions targeted toward producing devices to screen cargo for explosives, radiation, chemical and biological weapons, and other dangerous substances.
- ★ The FY2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, which President Bush signed into law, includes \$475 million for explosives detection system baggage screening equipment and installation – a \$75 million increase over 2004.

Myth: *America is doing nothing to address over 24,000 illegal immigrants from countries other than Mexico who are caught entering our country each year.*

Fact: *The House and Senate-passed 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act addresses this problem head-on by:*

- ★ Authorizing the doubling of border patrol agents from 10,000 to 20,000 and provide for the recruitment and training of 2,000 agents each year for the next five years.
- ★ Preventing potential terrorists from blocking their deportation by citing countries of origin that lack functioning governments.
- ★ Preventing dangerous illegal criminals from being released onto the American streets by requiring that the regulations governing Convention Against Torture (CAT) be modified to prevent alien terrorists from avoiding deportation.

Myth: *America has made no effort to screen the maritime cargo containers that enter our country for weapons of mass destruction.*

Fact: *DHS has made great advances and continues to strengthen the security of maritime cargo via a layered defense:*

- ★ The Container Security Initiative (CSI) has enabled DHS' Customs and Border Protection Directorate to station inspectors overseas to identify, target and search high-risk U.S. bound cargo. In July, 2004, ahead of its planned schedule, CSI was established in the 20 of the world's largest container shipping ports.
- ★ The FY2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Act, just signed into law by President Bush, allocates nearly \$2.9 billion on cargo security, screening, and inspections - an 80% increase over pre-9/11 levels.
- ★ The Coast Guard maintains a list of foreign seaports (currently 17) that have failed to comply with International Maritime Organization security standards. The Coast Guard has instituted a policy to board and heavily scrutinize all vessels that visited one of these ports at any point in its voyage, prior to arriving in the United States.
- ★ The Coast Guard established the International Port Security Program (IPSP), designed to send Coast Guard Officers overseas to assess the effectiveness of port and foreign vessel security measures in ports throughout the world. These officers will use internationally negotiated treaties as a baseline to hold foreign nations accountable for implementing proper security measures.

Myth: *Thousands of hours of terrorist-related wiretap information sits untouched, untranslated, and neglected by the federal government.*

Fact: *The FBI has been addressing this issue since 9/11.*

- ★ In fact, the FBI has increased funding for its foreign language program from \$21.5 million in fiscal year (FY) 2001 to nearly \$70 million in FY 2004.
- ★ The shortage of experienced linguists in the intelligence community is also addressed by provisions in Title I of the 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act, which allow:
 - Heads of the intelligence community to enter into agreements with educational institutions by providing equipment, material and/or dedicated personnel to the educational institutions as determined by the intelligence community head.
 - The NID to assign military and civilian personnel to receive foreign language training at educational institutions. The NID may reimburse personnel for the cost of training.
 - The establishment of a National Virtual Translation Center would under the direction of the NID to provide secure, timely, and accurate translation of foreign intelligence.

Myth: *America has failed to aggressively deal with the threat of biological weapons by pursuing the development of effective countermeasures.*

Fact: *President Bush proposed, and the Congress passed, Project BioShield – a program that creates incentives for private-sector scientists, physicians, and researchers to develop lifesaving treatments.*

- ★ To implement Project BioShield, Congress has allotted \$5.6 billion over 10 years to purchase and stockpile a national stockpile of drugs and vaccines for use should a biological weapon be set loose by terrorists.
- ★ In addition, DHS has instituted BioWatch – an environmental monitoring system, deployed across America to monitor air samples in major urban cities nationwide. Through constant monitoring, BioWatch will provide for early warning and early response to a potential bioweapons attack.

Myth: *America has failed to take action to protect thousands of chemical plants that could serve as “pre-positioned toxic weapons of mass destruction” if hit with explosives by terrorists.*

Fact: *DHS has been out front on the issue of securing chemical plants and has conducted a national risk assessment of chemical facilities and identified those facilities that present the greatest danger.*

- ★ DHS has prioritized chemical facilities based on risk, using quantity and type of material and proximity to population centers.
- ★ Based on this prioritization, DHS is working with state and local authorities and chemical facilities to put into place Buffer Zone Security Plans for high risk chemical sites by September 2003. Additional Buffer Zone Plans will be put into place at the top 360 plants by the end of this year.
- ★ Chemical facilities have been equipped with counter surveillance equipment, which will result in improved early warning of attack and lower response times to suspicious activity. Next-generation technology is being developed to further increase protection in the event of an incident whether that incident is a result of terrorism or an accident.

Myth: *Congress has repeatedly failed to provide resources to fix critical security gaps and equip first responders.*

Fact: *The FY2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Act provides \$28.9 billion in homeland defense spending - a \$1.8 billion increase over 2004, and a \$14.9 billion increase over 2001 levels. The following examples from the FY2005 appropriations bill show how we are continually allocating ample funding to vital homeland security programs:*

- ★ \$8.5 billion for U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a \$556 million increase over 2004.
- ★ \$5.1 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, including aviation security fees, a \$679 million increase over 2004. This includes \$475 million for explosives detection system baggage screening equipment and installation, a \$75 million increase over 2004.
- ★ \$4 billion for state and local assistance programs to fund our first responders—a 765% (\$3.5 billion) increase over 2001 levels.

Myth: *Congress has done nothing to give our nation's first responders the ability and the equipment they need to talk to one another during an emergency.*

Fact: *The 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act addresses this issue by:*

- ★ Establishing requirements for the NID to create an interim system for horizontal information exchange within the intelligence community and to get such an exchange operational immediately;
- ★ Requiring a full functional interoperable system to provide significant information exchange by 2007 within a trusted information network;
- ★ Aligning such information systems with everyone who needs the information such as intelligence officers, law enforcement /operational counter terror officers, consular officers, and DHS border security officers.

Myth: *Congress has taken no action to ensure that we have an integrated, comprehensive terrorist watch list.*

Fact: *The 9/11 Recommendations Implementation Act addresses this by:*

- ★ Establishing a National Counterterrorism Center to be the primary organization for analyzing and integrating all intelligence possessed or acquired by the United States. The center will maintain a consolidated terrorist watch list.